

Standard Symbol

BMP Objectives

- Soil Stabilization
- Sediment Control
- Tracking Control
- Wind Erosion Control
- Non-Storm Water Management
- Materials and Waste Management

Definition and Purpose

A straw bale barrier is a temporary linear sediment barrier consisting of straw bales, designed to intercept and slow sediment-laden sheet flow runoff. Straw bale barriers allow sediment to settle from runoff before water leaves the construction site.

Appropriate Applications

- This BMP may be implemented on a project-by-project basis in addition to other BMPs when determined necessary and feasible by the Resident Engineer (RE).
- Along the perimeter of a site.
- Along streams and channels.
- Below the toe of exposed and erodible slopes.
- Down slope of exposed soil areas.
- Around stockpiles.
- Across minor swales or ditches with small catchments.
- Around above grade type temporary concrete washouts (See BMP WM-8, "Concrete Waste Management").
- Parallel to a roadway to keep sediment off paved areas.

- Limitations
- Installation can be labor intensive.
 - Straw bale barriers are maintenance intensive.
 - Degraded straw bales may fall apart when removed or left in place for extended periods.
 - Can't be used on paved surfaces.
 - Not to be used for drain inlet protection.
 - Shall not be used in areas of concentrated flow.
 - Can be an attractive food source for some animals.
 - May introduce undesirable non-native plants to the area.

Standards and Specifications

Materials

- **Straw Bale Material:** Straw bale materials shall conform to the provisions in Standard Specifications Section 20-2.06, "Straw."
- **Straw Bale Size:** Each straw bale shall be a minimum of 360 mm (14 in) wide, 450 mm (18 in) in height, 900 mm (36 in) in length and shall have a minimum mass of 23 kg (51 lb.) The straw bale shall be composed entirely of vegetative matter, except for the binding material.
- **Bale Bindings:** Bales shall be bound by either steel wire, nylon or polypropylene string placed horizontally. Jute and cotton binding shall not be used. Baling wire shall be a minimum diameter of 1.57 mm (0.06 inch). Nylon or polypropylene string shall be approximately 2 mm (0.08 inch) in diameter with a breaking strength of 360 N.
- **Stakes:** Wood stakes shall be commercial quality lumber of the size and shape shown on the plans. Each stake shall be free from decay, splits or cracks longer than the thickness of the stake, or other defects that would weaken the stakes and cause the stakes to be structurally unsuitable. Steel bar reinforcement shall be equal to a number four designation or greater. End protection shall be provided for any exposed bar reinforcement.

Installation

- Limit the drainage area upstream of the barrier to 0.3 ha/100 m (0.25 ac/100ft) or barrier.
- Limit the slope length draining to the straw bale barrier to 30 m (100 ft.)

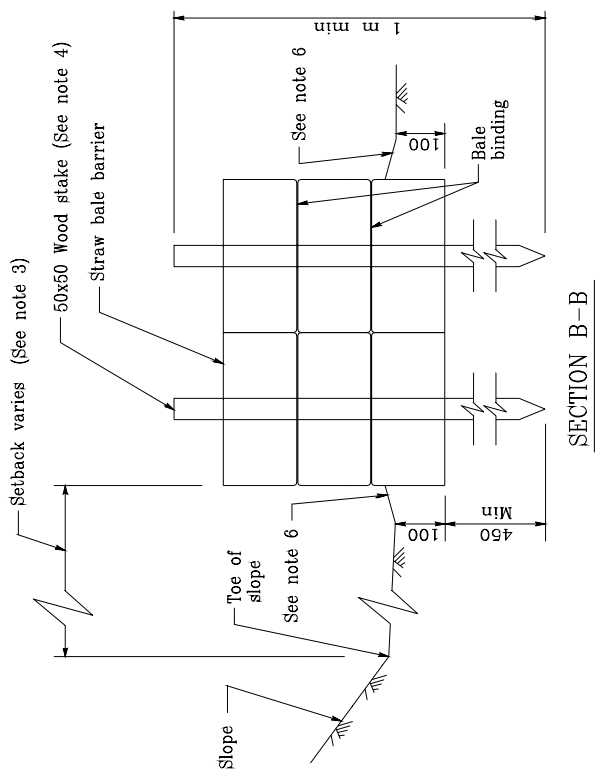
- Slopes of 2:100 (V:H) (2%) or flatter are preferred. If the slope exceeds 1:10 (V:H) (10%), the length of slope upstream of the barrier must be less than 15 m (50 ft).
- Install straw bale barriers along a level contour, with the last straw bale turned up slope.
- Straw bales must be installed in a trench and tightly abut adjacent bales.
- Construct straw bale barriers with a set-back of at least 1 m (3 ft) from the toe of a slope. Where it is determined to be not practical due to specific site conditions, the straw bale barrier may be constructed at the toe of the slope, but shall be constructed as far from the toe of the slope as practical.
- See pages 4 and 5 of this BMP for installation detail.

Maintenance and Inspection

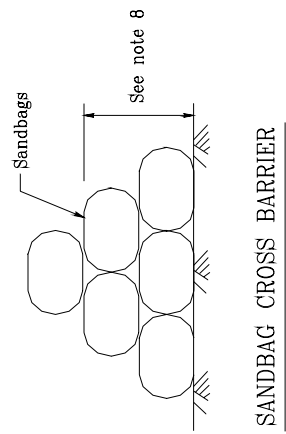
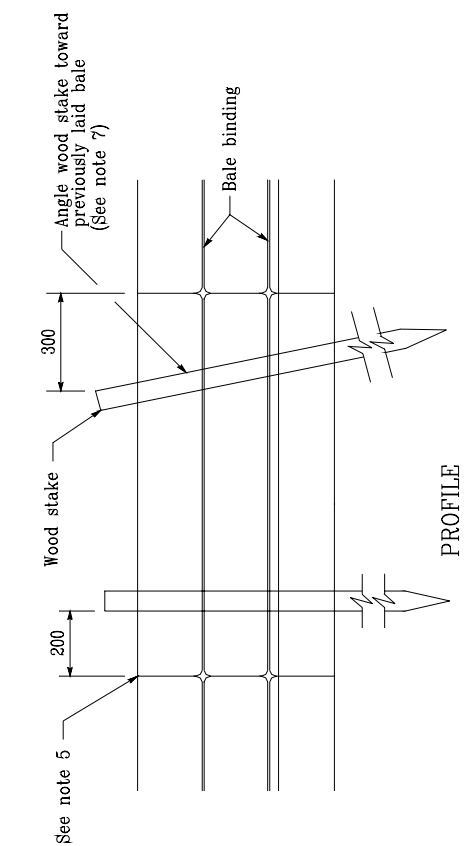
- Inspect straw bale barriers before and after each rainfall event, and weekly throughout the rainy season.
- Inspect straw bale barriers for sediment accumulations and remove sediment when depth reaches one-third the barrier height. Removed sediment shall be incorporated in the project at locations designated by the RE or disposed of outside the highway right-of-way in conformance with the Standard Specifications.
- Replace or repair damage bales as needed or as directed by the RE.
- Repair washouts or other damages as needed or as directed by the RE.
- Remove straw bales when no longer needed. Remove sediment accumulation, and clean, re-grade, and stabilized the area.

Straw Bale Barrier

SC-9



SECTION B-B



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TEMPORARY LINEAR SEDIMENT BARRIER
(TYPE STRAW BALE)
NO SCALE
ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN
MILLIMETERS UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN

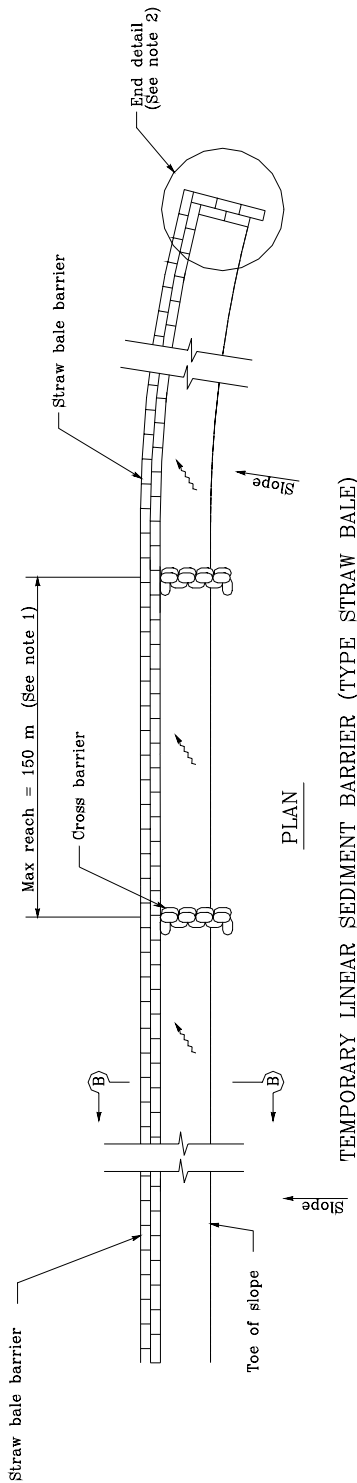
LEGEND

~> DIRECTION OF FLOW



Straw Bale Barrier

SC-9



NOTES

1. Construct the length of each reach so that the change in base elevation along the reach does not exceed 1/2 the height of linear barrier. In no case shall the reach length exceed 150 m.

2. End of barrier shall be turned up slope

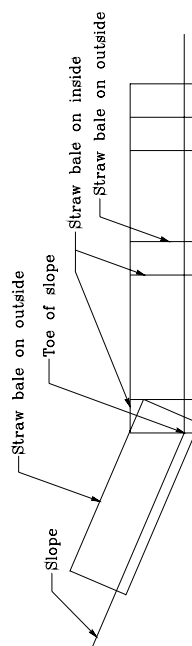
3. Dimension may vary to fit field conditions

4. Place

5. Tamp

6. Cross

7. ndba



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